

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/658,209
Response and Amendment dated June 13, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed March 13, 2007

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. As stated in the previous response, the Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge the formal drawings filed on December 5, 2003 as acceptable. The final Office Action incorrectly objects to the informal drawings submitted with the application on September 10, 2003.

Claims 1-71 are pending. Claims 1, 22, 44 and 60 are independent. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of dependent claims 10-12, 16-21, 31-33, 35-42, 49, 50, 54-59 and 66-70 if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 13-15, 22-26, 29, 30 34, 43-46, 51-53, 60, 63-65 and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,731,726 to Allen, III (hereinafter referred to as Allen, III). Claims 6, 7, 27, 28, 47, 48, 61 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen, III in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,251,126, to Kahn et al (hereinafter Kahn et al).

Applicants have amended the claims to place the allowable claims in condition for allowance to expedite the issuance of a patent. Applicants reserve the right to pursue prosecution of the rejected claims without prejudice in a continuation application.

Specifically, by the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original claims 5 and 10. Claims 5 and 10 have therefore been canceled, and claims 6, 8, 11 and 12 have been amended to change their dependency to amended claim 1.

Similarly, by the present amendment, claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of original claims 1, 13 and 14. Claims 13 and 14 have therefore been canceled, and claim 15 has been amended to change its dependency to amended claim 16.

Similarly, by the present amendment, claim 22 has been amended to include the limitations of original claims 26 and 31. Claims 26 and 31 have therefore been canceled, and claims 27, 29, 32 and 33 have been amended to change their dependency to amended claim 22.

Also, by the present amendment, claim 35 has been amended to include the limitations of original claims 22 and 34. Claim 34 has therefore been canceled.

By the present amendment, claim 44 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 49. Claim 49 has therefore been canceled. Claim 50 has been amended to change its dependency to amended claim 44.

Further, by the present amendment, claim 54 has been amended to include the limitations of original claims 44 and 52. Claim 52 has therefore been canceled. Claim 53 has been amended to change its dependency to amended claim 54.

By the present amendment, claim 60 has been amended to include the limitations of original claims 63, 64 and 66. Claims 63, 64 and 66 have therefore been canceled, and claims 65 and 67-69 have been amended to change their dependency to amended claim 60.

In addition, by the present amendment, claim 70 has been amended to include the limitations of original claims 60, 63 and 64.

Finally, by the present amendment, claim 71 has also been amended to include the limitations of original claims 60, 63 and 64.

Conclusion

In view of the arguments set forth above, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and would appreciate early notification of the same.

Invitation for a telephone interview

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 659-9076 if further issues remain with allowance of this case.

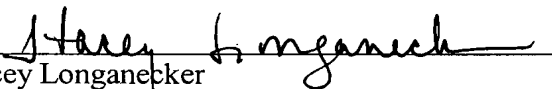
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Deposit Account Authorization

Although no fee is believed due by submission of this paper, authorization is hereby made to charge any fees due or outstanding, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **18-2220** (Order No. 45716).

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: June 13, 2007


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